

# intercom



Journal of the Air Force C4 community ★ July 2004

## CHARGE

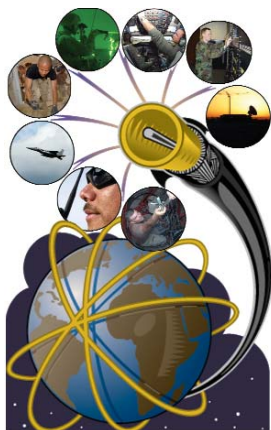
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- ▶▶ LEADING THE CHARGE
- ▶▶ CONSTELLATION NET
- ▶▶ HIGH FREQUENCY GLOBAL COMM



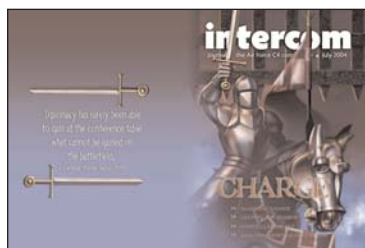
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This month's cover, themed "Lead Commands" is designed by Tech. Sgt. Jim Verchio, Intercom Editor.

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## THE JOURNAL OF THE AIR FORCE C4 COMMUNITY

**Gen. John P. Jumper**  
Air Force Chief of Staff

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Deputy Chief of Staff for Warfighting Integration

**Lt. Gen. Ronald E. Keys**  
Deputy Chief of Staff for Air and Space Operations

**Lt. Gen. Donald J. Wetekam**  
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## Submitting to the intercom

Stories should be in Microsoft Word format and should be no longer than 600 words. Photographs should be at least 5x7 in size and 300 dpi. Submit stories via e-mail to [intercom@scott.af.mil](mailto:intercom@scott.af.mil).

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E-mail all mailing requests or address changes to [intercom@scott.af.mil](mailto:intercom@scott.af.mil).

## Comments to the staff

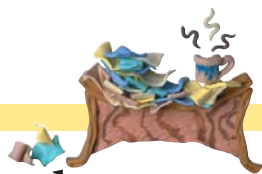
Comments, and letters to the editor, may be e-mailed or sent via the postal service to AFCA/PA, intercom, 203 W. Losey St., Room 1200, Scott AFB, IL 62225-5222.



<http://usaf.smartforce.com>



## From the editorial desk



### You're making a difference every day

By Tech. Sgt. Jim Verchio  
Intercom Editor

Just the other day I walked into a local convenience store with my daughter to get a cold drink during a hot afternoon. I was on my way home from work, and I was wearing my uniform. While I was pouring my fountain drink, an elderly woman tapped me on the shoulder. When I turned around, she extended her hand to me and said, "Sir, I'd like to thank you for protecting our country and for protecting my family." I shook her hand and said thank you. My daughter

asked why a total stranger would say thanks to me. I explained how the American public appreciates what we do for a living.

Luckily, I'm afforded the opportunity to extend my hand, through words, to the comm warriors throughout this great Air Force. Because of your dedication to duty, America is a better, safer place to live and raise a family. To the men and women on the front lines, thanks for doing your part. You're making a difference, and when America celebrates its independence, it's a celebration of your patriotism, hard work and commitment to duty.



### Letter to the editor

#### Informational Tool

I enjoyed the article on wireless communication by 1st Lt. Rachel Laughlin (March 2004), but I felt she needed to address a few points about the laptop computers in greater detail (obviously not the focus of her article, but a key heading.) She stated, "Laptops can store files from other TDY participants, be used to draft trip reports, and even show a DVD on the flight home." All true, but I believe the last part is against Department of Defense and Air Force policy — use of private DVDs or music CDs on government computers is prohibited. This is something the editorial staff of intercom should have caught and corrected.

As another point, there are many issues with wireless connectivity of laptops to government networks, none of which were addressed in this article on Wireless Communication — maybe these would be good areas for future articles.

—Billy Mathews  
Scott AFB, Ill.

*Thanks for taking the time to send your comments to the intercom. You're right, playing DVDs and CDs on government computers is prohibited, and we're all responsible for protecting our information systems. However, Lt. Laughlin's article does not state that she's talking exclusively about government computers or hardware. The article's focus was just to illustrate the different type of wireless 'gadgets' that are available. I've deployed quite a few times with a laptop, and I echo the lieutenant's thoughts that they can be a life saver...especially at a bare-base location when traditional desktops and wired networks aren't available. Your comments bring to light a valuable point. If a person reads something in the intercom, and it sounds like it needs clarification, refer to Air Force Instruction for guidance. Thanks for reading. There's always room to improve the intercom, and because of reader feedback, we're on the right track!*

— Tech. Sgt. Jim Verchio  
Intercom Editor

JAG  
in a Box

Fritz Mihelcic  
AFCA Deputy  
Chief Counsel



### Security is top priority

**Can we bypass the hoops and allow direct access to the NIPRNET and SIPRNET for foreign nationals who are currently serving in the U.S. military.**



No. Access to the NIPRNET and SIPRNET by foreign nationals is covered in an Interim Change to AFI 33-202, Network and Computer Security.

The rules do not provide any exceptions for people who are non-U.S. citizens but are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. So, you have to treat them just like any other foreign national and follow the guidelines. For NIPRNET access, that means that the person who has authority to grant permission is the appropriate lieutenant general or equivalent in the organizational chain. As for the SIPRNET, the Department of Defense policy is very clear: Foreign nationals will not be granted access to U.S. only classified networks and terminals. The definition of foreign nationals specifically includes U.S. military personnel, so if they aren't citizens, U.S. military personnel are not allowed on the SIPRNET.

Bottom line, know the citizenship status of your customers and make sure you follow the rules for access to Air Force networks.

**Send in your question to:**

**AFCA-JA@scott.af.mil  
or call DSN: 779-6060**



# MANAGING

# CHANGE

## THROUGH WORKFORCE TRANSFORMATION

From  
the **Top**

**By Mr. Rob C. Thomas II**

Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff,  
Warfighting Integration

**PENTAGON** — These days many are writing about transformation including those of us in DCS, Warfighting Integration. All agree transformation is about creating and redesigning the future — not merely perfecting the past. Transformation is a process and mindset — not a product. This truth is fundamental to our Warfighting Integration vision.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld asked each of the military departments to report on its service's transformation enhancing joint wartime mission capabilities for the 21st Century. The Air Force roadmap, "2003 Air Force Transformation Flight Plan," spells out future direction toward capabilities-based changes in operational concepts, organizational structures and technologies. Key organizational transformation efforts, focused toward Total Force Development, include:

A new force development construct, for how it trains, educates, promotes and assigns the Total Force in a more deliberate, coordinated approach — one grounded in doctrine.

Within the Future Total Force effort, the Air Force is continuing its transformation in the way it integrates the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and the civilian force to produce greater combat capability.

Air Force senior leadership is

embracing a new vision and construct to transform human capital management.

I urge you to read the flight plan, for a better understanding of where Air Force leadership places emphasis. The 2003 Air Force Transformation Flight Plan is unclassified and available on the HAF Web site, under AF/XPX organization homepage at: <http://www.xp.hq.af.mil/xpx>.

The Air Force transformation process begins and ends with our people. Total Force Development directly relates to the chief of staff's vision of how we transform and maximize operational capabilities that meet mission requirements. As we evolve and transform, we must also change the ways we professionally develop those who serve, ensuring their skills for meeting our mission needs — while adopting a mindset that facilitates change.

Within the corporate Air Force construct for Total Force Development, Lt. Gen. Tom Hobbins, as the Air Force senior communicator and functional authority, is charged with creating the vision for career field policies and the strategies for comm and info professionals. We have set our sights on the horizon, anticipating the right skills mix, command and control, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; architectures, information assurance, wireless communications, multi-media and information management — required by the warfighter in the net-

### AUTHOR PROFILE

**Rob C. Thomas II**, a member of the

Senior Executive Service, is Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Warfighting Integration,

Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.



Mr. Thomas serves as principal assistant to the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Warfighting Integration. He directs the integration of manned, unmanned and space systems to create an integrated command and control, communications and computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability for the Air Force.

He is responsible for the formulation and execution of long-range strategic plans for integration of C4ISR, Air Force experimentation, Air Force modeling and simulation, and communications and information systems, to include information assurance.

He is also the senior civilian for the Air Force communications and information functional community.

work-centric globally integrated battlespace.

Constant technological innovation drives the way the Air Force executes its mission.

Our warfighting integration mission requires that as we expand our network-centric capabilities, our tactical and operational skills mix must also evolve, taking advantage of new technological capabilities. We, in the comm and info career field, must look beyond traditional boundaries and learn about, understand and contribute to the effective integration of combat, combat support and business systems within the Air Force and across the joint warfighting mission areas.

Making this happen is a group effort, requiring close collaboration of our military and civilian force development teams. These teams are comprised of individuals from across the DCS, Warfighting Integration, the directorate of Communications Operations — including Air Force career field managers and our PALACE teams at the Air Force Personnel Center.

Also, the Air Force Communications Agency's Civilian Career Force Executive Agent element is developing operational processes to further integrate the civilian corps into the total-force strategy.

The transformation imperative

requires our Total Force Development processes rapidly incorporate the newest technological capabilities; ensuring the best-trained people are using the best technologies for mission accomplishment. To ensure appropriate career growth of Air Force communicators, we are significantly changing the way we provide development and education to our officers and equivalent civilians, taking into consideration modular design of traditionally long-term, in-residence military education.

For our 33S officers, our force development goal is to ensure appropriate development opportunities are provided during tactical, operational and strategic periods of officers' careers. The development will be designed to equip the individual and the Air Force with the necessary capabilities that foster leadership and provide the catalyst to maintain warfighting superiority well into the 21st century. We will implement appropriate changes through deliberate and rewarding challenges in education, training and experience.

Career field managers and AFCA executive agents are also working the enlisted transformation issues, within a four-tier force development model.

Responding to Air Force senior leadership, we are also transforming the way we develop our civilian workforce to become future

leaders and share responsibility with their military counterparts. The corporate approach for future workforce envisions strategically developing civilians to be highly competitive for GS-14, GS-15 and Senior Executive Service positions. This strategy emphasizes leadership capabilities, mobility, education, breadth and depth of training and experience and mentorship. Our administrative and technical level civilians will also have opportunities for education and training to allow career progression into the career professional grades.

Total Force Development is envisioned as a journey — mentoring and guiding our people along the way, and ensuring they have the educational opportunities and tools they need to ensure mission success as well as professional fulfillment. We are committed to Total Force Development — focused toward ensuring the best skilled communications and information workforce is engaged in supporting the warfighting mission. The expertise of our Total Force is our most valuable asset. Continued training and development are our wisest investments.

We are extremely proud of our communications and information workforce. General Hobbins and I look forward to working together with you to transform our force development activities. We take our responsibilities for the career progression and professional development of the total force very seriously, and understand that we are on this transformational journey together.

We welcome your talents and suggestions as we explore new concepts, and adapt our existing and new systems and organizations to meet the challenges of the current and future security environment.

Updates will be presented in future *intercom* articles as we continue to work together to transform our total workforce.

## ENLISTED

### FOUR-TIER FORCE DEVELOPMENT MODEL



#### Enlisted Force Structure Management

Addresses accession, recruiting, retention, and career field sustainment

#### Training

AEF readiness will be integrated into enlisted career paths at all levels—basic military training, tech school and 7-level courses

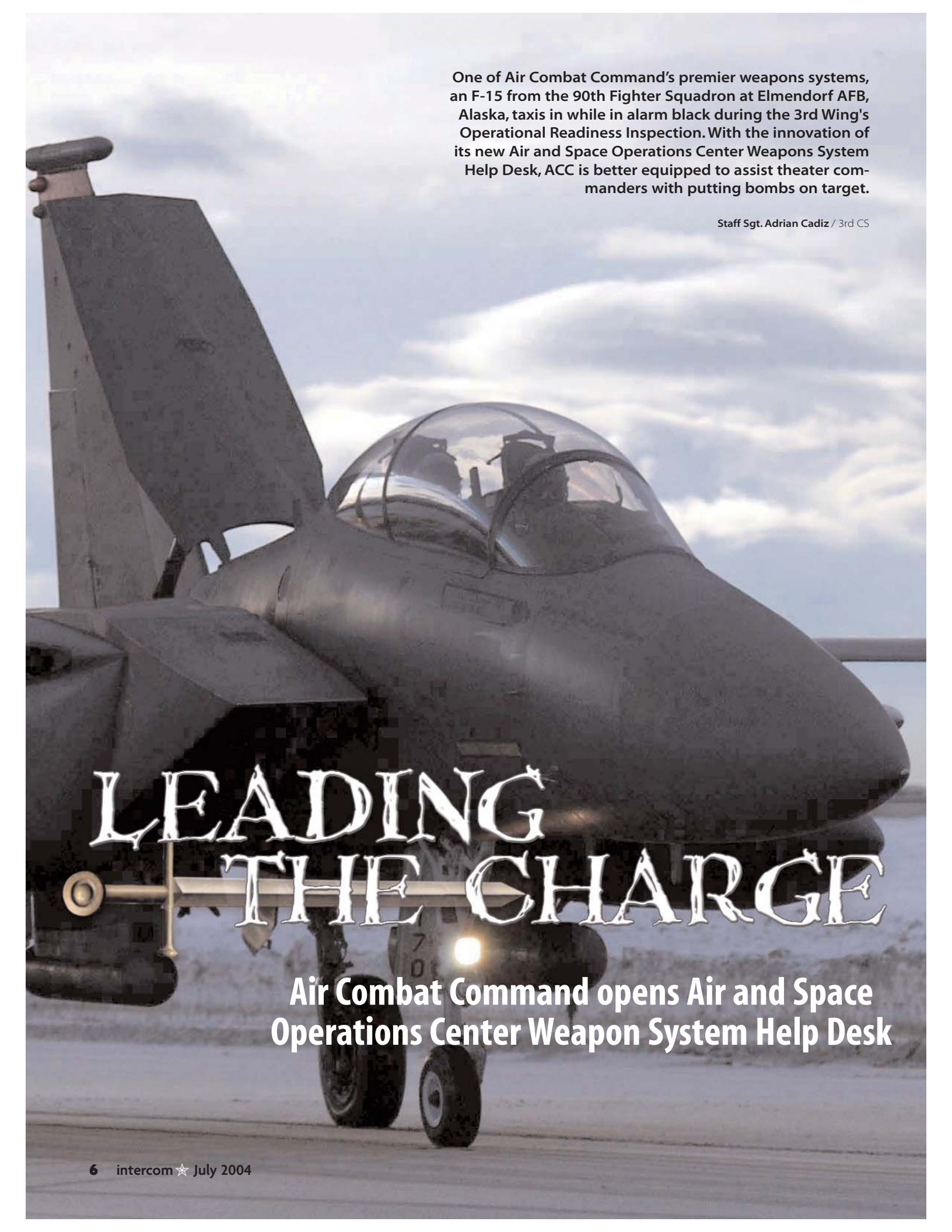
#### Future Force Development Strategy

Continuously assesses the changing operational environment, Air Force CONOPs and emerging technologies that influence the blend of AFSCs, skill sets, and training needed for network-centric operations

#### Senior NCO Development

Advanced comm and info management will be incorporated and will groom senior enlisted communicators at the superintendent level.





One of Air Combat Command's premier weapons systems, an F-15 from the 90th Fighter Squadron at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, taxis in while in alarm black during the 3rd Wing's Operational Readiness Inspection. With the innovation of its new Air and Space Operations Center Weapons System Help Desk, ACC is better equipped to assist theater commanders with putting bombs on target.

Staff Sgt. Adrian Cadiz / 3rd CS

# LEADING THE CHARGE

**Air Combat Command opens Air and Space  
Operations Center Weapon System Help Desk**

## Capt. Brian Munoz

HQ ACC/SCW

**LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va.** — Langley Air Force Base will stand up a new capability this summer that will ensure a lifeline for hardware, software and technical support to the warfighter – the Air and Space Operations Center Weapon System Help Desk.

More than two years of programming efforts and close coordination between Air Combat Command Communications and Information Systems, the 83rd Communications Squadron, the Help Desk Program office and the Air Force Command and Control and Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Center, will come to fruition when the AOC WS HD comes online and engaged giving the warfighter an additional line of support — a dedicated crew of AOC systems administrators, subject matter experts and infrastructure available at the push of a button.

The AOC, designated as the AN/USQ-163 Falconer, is the senior element of the Theater Air Control System and the weapon system that the Commander, Air Force Forces provides the Joint Forces Air Component Commander for planning, executing and assessing theater-wide air and space operations. The JFACC plans and develops the Air Tasking Order, directing tactical actions to produce desired operational and strategic effects in support of the Joint Force Commander's campaign. In short, the AOC is the JFACC's nerve center to ensure air and space superiority is achieved and maintained in the theater of operations. Every COMAFFOR supporting a regional combatant commander will have a Falconer AOC. Tailored Falconer and training AOCs will also be fielded to support some AOC tasked units, training activities and innovation centers.

The Help Desk will provide the single focal point for AOC problem reporting, tracking, and resolution management, including support escalation. The Help Desk also supports Force Level systems at the Air Support Operations Centers and remote Force Level terminals employed at the Wing Operations Centers. The Help Desk possesses the right network components, software, data flow and hardware configurations embedded in the approved AOC systems baseline to facilitate troubleshooting and problem reconstruction. The Help Desk is also equipped with the communications infrastructure and devices necessary to exchange classified and unclassified information to quickly identify and work problems.

Achieving the goal of standing up the AOC WS Help

Desk has been a teamed approach – AFC2ISRC developed the programmatic strategy, ACC/SC lead program management and lifecycle sustainment, the AOC WS System Program Office spearheaded the system engineering and site activation, and the 83rd CS implemented the infrastructure/systems and is responsible for the daily operations and staffing of the AOC WS Help Desk with blue-suit and contract systems administrators in AOC operations, processes, and capabilities.

## What is 'Lead Command'

**Lead Command Purpose:** Air Force Communications and Information Systems, operated and supported by more than one MAJCOM, require the designation of a "lead command" as the spokesperson and advocate for each multi-command system. The lead command is the advocate and responds to issues affecting system status and use. Issues include all operational and logistical (supportability, maintainability, and reliability) issues for assigned Communications and Information systems. Advocacy includes planning and programming for acquisition, installation, training, sustainment, testing and initial operational capability for new C4 systems. The following pages depict the efforts of those agencies around the globe that are taking charge and 'leading the way' in technological advances being sent forward to the warfighter.





# CONSTELLATION NET

## COMM FACTOID

Air Force Communications Agency, Scott AFB, is a Field Operating Agency. AFCA's engineering expertise, state-of-the-art enterprise emulation and simulation facilities, and nearly 70 years of comm and info integration experience are helping the AF/XI achieve integration and interoperability across the air, space, and terrestrial domains.

AFCA not only develops architectures and manages IT policies and standards, it also assesses and tracks systems slated for connection to the Air Force network. AFCA developed a process that assesses a system's "networthiness" prior to fielding. This operational risk management tool ensures systems do not introduce security vulnerabilities or performance problems.

By operationally supporting the warfighter, serving as steward of the Air Force network, and continuing innovative warfighting integration work, AFCA accomplishes its mission of directing the integration of systems into the Air Force network to achieve integrated and interoperable Air Force CONOPS capabilities. In doing so, it continues to reduce latency in the kill chain.



# AFCA

By Capt. Giorgio Cabrera  
Air Force Communications Agency

**SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILL.** — What do the Air Force ConstellationNet and the construction of a new building have in common?

Although there are many commonalities, the most prominent one is that they both have architects. A building architect ensures the building's design meets its intended use and properly integrates the multiple interrelated subsystems, such as plumbing, electricity, and ventilation. Similarly, the information technology architect must map out future Air Force information flows to ensure Net-Centric subsystems such as storage, messaging and collaboration meet the warfighters' requirements.

The August 2002 SECAF/CSAF Air Force Policy Memo on Enterprise Architecting targeted architectures as the "key construct in visualizing mission information relationships and promoting interoperability." The memo established a number of architecture councils and assigned responsibility for the development of the Infostructure sub-Enterprise Architecture to AF/XI. As AF/XI's Field Operating Agency, the Air Force Communications Agency was assigned responsibility for development of the Infostructure Architecture in April 2003.

The Infostructure Architecture is now named the ConstellationNet Architecture to better reflect its relationship with the C2 Constellation Architecture and the Operational Support Enterprise Architecture.

The previously scheduled release of Infostructure Architecture — Version 1.4, which was to have concentrated on Information Management, has been rolled into the Constellation Architecture release V2.0, which is the first complete version of the architecture. The architecture is available at <https://infostructure.hq.af.mil>. (Capt. Keith Shank/ AFCA/ ITCR contributed to this article.)

The Infostructure Architecture is now named the ConstellationNet Architecture to better reflect its relationship with the C2 Constellation Architecture and the Operational Support Enterprise Architecture.



# GLOBAL COMM

## High Frequency invaluable to aircrews, DoD

By Tech. Sgt. Kent Findlay

HQ AMC/A66G

**SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILL.** — Now more than ever before, the High Frequency Global Communications System has become a cost effective, networked solution for providing near global communications coverage for both voice and data to the aircrew.

The HF Global network is an Air Force acquired and managed system that supports a myriad of Department of Defense beyond-line-of-sight communications missions.

The high-power HF network provides long-range voice coverage of approximately 2,000 miles and data coverage of 2,500 miles from each of its 15 worldwide HF stations.

Primary customers of the HF Global Comm System are the Air Force's Air Mobility Command, Air Combat Command, Air Force Space Command, and the Navy's E-6 fleet. HFGCS also provides alert broadcast of Emergency Action Messages. EAMs can be sent over the HFGCS network directly from United States Strategic Command through a dedicated circuit to the CNCS, or from the CNCS after receiving the alert from any of several means.

A major improvement to HF is Automatic Link Establishment. ALE eliminates the need for operator assistance to complete a call or phone patch. ALE automatically selects the best frequency and ground station and makes the connection, for both voice and data — users receive the optimum connection available based on location and time of day.

ALE also provides HF e-mail messaging capability over the HF Global network; making it possible to send and receive classified e-mail messages to and from appropriately equipped aircraft and ground users. The HF e-mail software also possesses a store and forward ground feature, which holds an e-mail until the addressee aircraft comes up in the HF ALE mode. The e-mail system then makes the connection and transmits the message. A typical 5K e-mail file can be transferred in approximately two minutes. Most importantly, it is economical to use since there are no associated per message costs. Next Generation ALE will provide two signif-

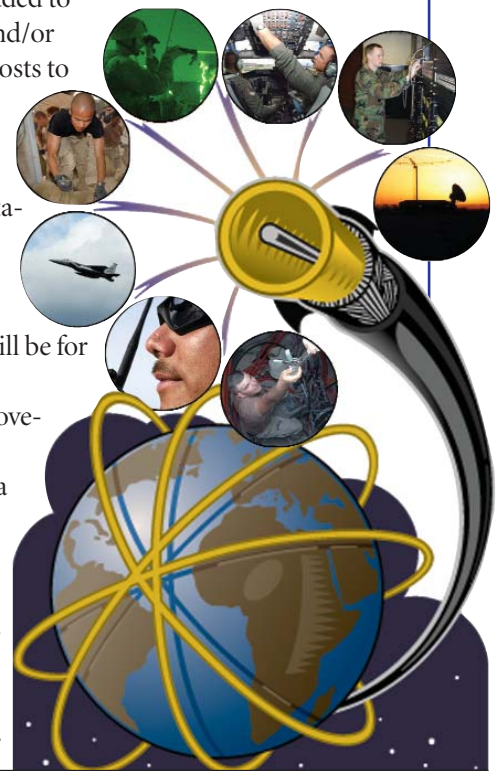
icant capabilities: a run silent mode for aircrews on special operations needing to limit outgoing radio transmissions. It will also have the capability to automatically set the radio for incoming voice or data to ease aircrew operations workload and improve the success rate for connectivity.

As the Lead Command for Global HF, HQ AMC/A6 is an advocate for expanding access to the HF Global network to include other users such as the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, FEMA, NSA, AF Auxiliary/Civil Air Patrol, and special DoD missions requiring long-range communications. The HF Global network program office is working with the Global Information Grid and Teleport program offices to ensure future HF communications capabilities are integrated into the GIG and Teleport architectures.

HFGCS is striving to increase reliability and survivability; an alternate CNCS location is being pursued to ensure uninterrupted service. But even more significant to HF voice communications is the HF Digital Voice modification, which will eliminate the static historically associated with HF communications. In the future, the HFGCS will be upgraded to allow STRATCOM and/or airborne command posts to send out alerts through a DSN connection to any of the HF Global network stations.

The HFGCS network is a capability available today and will be for years to come.

The planned improvement initiatives to the HFGCS will provide a network-based infrastructure, enabling clearer, more reliable, secure, and expanded information services via the High Frequency spectrum.



# saving lives

USAFE Comm comes to aid  
of medical community





**By 1st Lt. Billy Pope Jr.**  
HQ USAFE/A6Y

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany** —The Communications and Information Directorate at Headquarters US Air Forces in Europe is transforming the way it provides information technology services theater-wide by forging partnerships with other functional areas.

One such partnership is the Flight of the Future. It was first introduced to USAFE in September 2002 and is now literally transforming the way communications support is provided to USAFE's medical community.

The service and performance improvements, cross functional integration opportunities and total cost of ownership envisioned during the program's planning phases are quickly becoming reality.

Before Flight of the Future was launched, traditional communications support functions, like network account access and application troubleshooting, were performed by on-site enlisted Health Service Administrators. The Flight of the Future pilot program consolidates network help desk support for medical system users to a single centralized help desk at Ramstein AB, Germany. The centralized help desk is manned by contractors, returning 26 HSAs to traditional medical healthcare service support.

The Flight of the Future uses remote desktop administration and helpdesk consolidation, allowing USAFE to make unprecedented strides toward tomorrow's vision of communications support.

"This program provides an equal, if not better, level of communications support to USAFE's medical personnel at a

much lower total cost," said Lt. Col. Michael Adames, the HQ USAFE/SG Chief Information Officer and project manager for Flight of the Future.

"In addition to consolidating help desk services in order to save money, the long term goal of the Flight of the Future is to return our Health Services Administrators back to their core competencies and make significant strides toward the AF-CIO vision of information technology services consolidation."

The study is expected to continue until September, but preliminary data suggests the Flight of the Future is a booming success. Recent studies show significant IT support savings since the CHD's full implementation in January. The majority of those savings are generated by the elimination of work group managers and the time they spent working on the network. Flight of the Future also relieved the health care professionals from managing e-mail services. These duties were assumed by the host base communications squadron. The next step is to move the remaining operation and maintenance function of the network to the communication squadrons. "IT is rapidly evolving to a point where stand off management and administration of networks will be common place--right down to the specific components and applications that provide voice, data, and video on the desktop," said Col. Steven Spano, USAFE's Director of Communications and information. "In a net centric environment, there are no lines between the network and end user peripherals. Building a new way to think digitally will take time, but Flight of the Future is the perfect catalyst to speed up the process."

## Comm 'Flight' team



**From left, Jennifer Wortman, Master Sgt. Kevin O'Hara, Lt. Col. Michael Adames, Sharita Kemp, 1st Lt. Billy Pope, Shelley Wiley and Rob Oxendine. Flight of the Future was first introduced to USAFE in September 2002 and is now literally transforming the way communications support is provided to USAFE's medical community. In doing so, health care providers are able to concentrate on their core tasks and not overburdened with work-group management duties.**

## Ever vigilant

Senior Airman Michael Brewer and Staff Sgt David Wieger of the 8th Communications Squadron prepare to engage opposition forces during a Korean Peninsula Combat Evaluation Readiness Exercise. By implementing lead commands across the Air Force, 'user' commands are poised to execute their missions with the best technology has to offer.

Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth / 8th CS









# AMERICAN DAY CELEBRATION

A Japanese girl picks up an American flag during the 16th annual American Day celebration outside Misawa Air Base, Japan. The event brings visitors who are interested in learning about American culture from all over Northern Japan.

Staff Sgt. Andrew Rodier / 35th CS

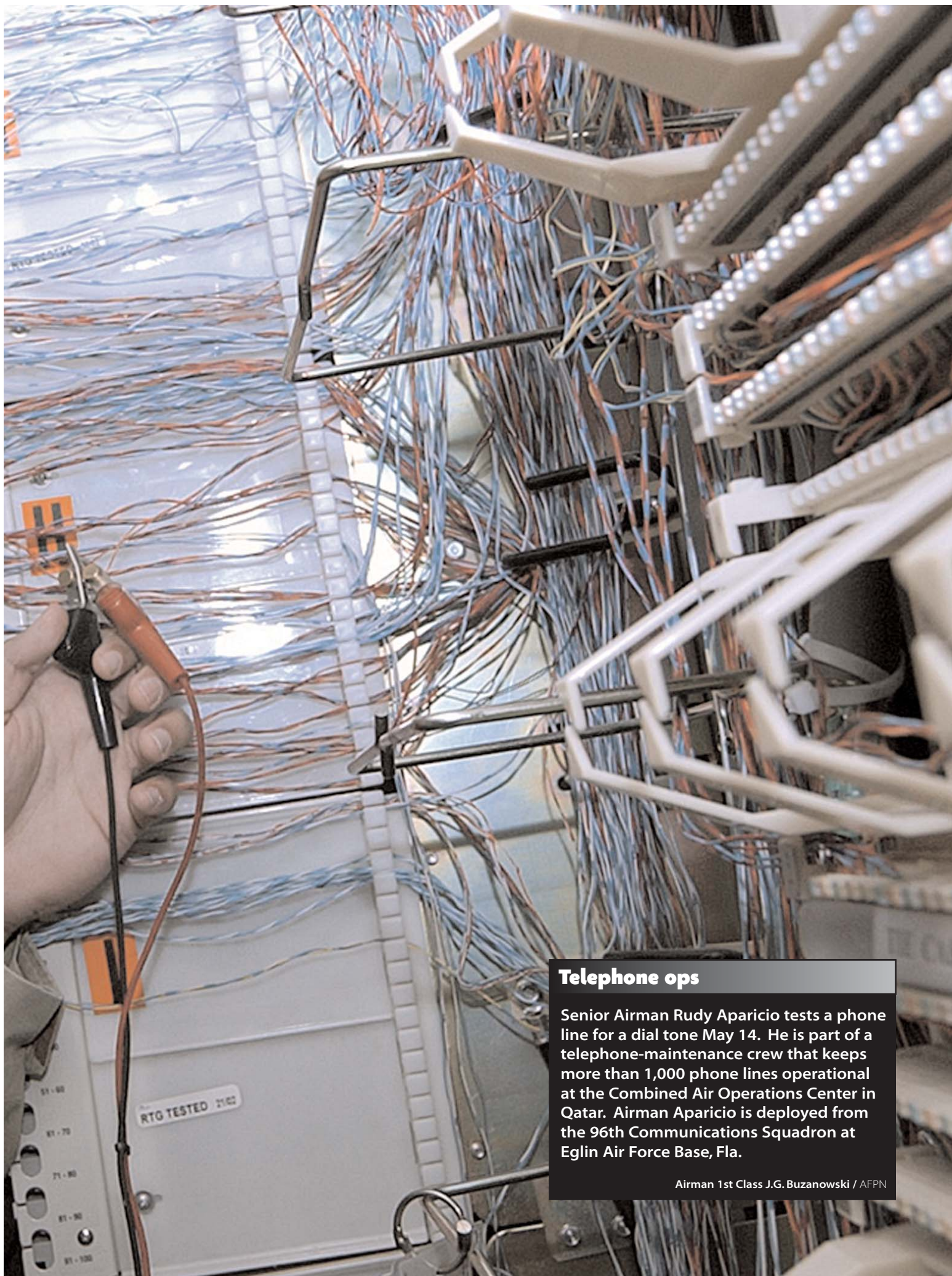












### Telephone ops

Senior Airman Rudy Aparicio tests a phone line for a dial tone May 14. He is part of a telephone-maintenance crew that keeps more than 1,000 phone lines operational at the Combined Air Operations Center in Qatar. Airman Aparicio is deployed from the 96th Communications Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Airman 1st Class J.G. Buzanowski / AFPN



# YOU'VE GOT MAIL

## THANKS TO THE TEAM AT DETACHMENT 2



Senior Airman Stacey Bailey uses a scanner to track registered mail at the mail processing facility in Yokota.

Master Sgt. Val Gempis / AFPN

**By Master Sgt. Val Gempis**

Air Force Print News

**YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan** — Detachment 2 of the Air Postal Squadron operates the Air Force's largest and busiest central mail processing activity. Its 48-person team of Airmen and local Japanese workers oversee the movement, sorting and distribution of more than 50 million pounds of mail annually.

The squadron is part of the Military Postal System that operates in areas where the U.S. Postal Service does not operate or in other places where U.S. military is present. Its mission is to provide prompt, reliable and efficient postal service for all Department of Defense people.

Processing mail here is a complex operation, said Isiah Ravenel, detachment chief. The detachment receives and dispatches mail to about 2,000 commercial and military aircraft a year bound for Pacific Command locations including Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Korea, Thailand, Singapore and Bahrain.

In 2003, the group operated two shifts, 19 hours daily, year-round, while serving more than 300,000 customers in the Pacific Command.

Daily, Airmen load and unload postal trucks and move mail around using forklifts, electric tractors and hand-pushed carts. They also operate mail processing, sorting and canceling machines.

Despite using automated equipment, the work of mail sorters can be physically demanding.

"It's a lot of work. Your back

aches, your hands hurt and your body is exhausted at the end of the day," said Master Sgt. Neil Mercader, operations chief at Narita Airport in Tokyo.

Workers trek back and forth between Yokota and Narita Airport daily using 32-foot trailer trucks driven by 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron heavy-equipment operators, also from Yokota. Though the airport is only 70 miles away, sometimes the Airmen sit in traffic for up to four hours. But knowing how important mail is to the morale of people stationed or deployed overseas makes the job gratifying, team members said.

Although the detachment primarily works in the Pacific theater, it's also tasked with supporting the troops on the front.

Detachment workers were instrumental in initiating mail operations at Baghdad International Airport. They delivered, often through hostile fire, more than 16 million pounds of mail to about 130,000 troops in the country. The detachment still has a deployed post office, at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia.

"It's been a Herculean effort for us to meet and surpass our goals with so many troops gone. But we have a good cohesive crew," said Senior Master Sgt. Michael Breazell, unit superintendent.

Even though they have to double up on duties and stay longer at work at times, Sergeant Breazell said people stayed focused and very professional.

"They just do their work with flair and a smile," he said.





# MUSIC IN THE HEART



## Network administrator, expert craftsman

By Ms. Susan Griggs

81st Training Wing Public Affairs

**KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss.** — For most people, making music means strumming a guitar, playing a keyboard, drumming a beat or singing a song.

When Fred McMichael makes music, he often makes the instrument himself. After creating more than 50 violins and 20 guitars in the past 30 years, he tackled his biggest challenge yet: a handcrafted harp.

"As far as I know, all harps are handmade, not mass produced," said Mr. McMichael, a local network administrator and software developer with the 338th Training Squadron here. "Until I built mine, I'd never seen a harp in real life, only pictures or on television, and I've never met a person who plays one."

Going into the project, he said he thought the process would be easy, "but I was totally wrong."

"I can carve an entire violin or guitar in five days, only working a few hours each day," Mr. McMichael said. "I'd never recommend to anyone to build a harp from scratch until they have a few decades of violin- and guitar-making experience. You have to be a master at wood-working, very patient and precise."

"If all goes somewhat right, you'll end up with a great instrument (that can be passed) from generation to generation," he said. "The harp also tends to make you look wealthy -- who else do you know that has a harp in the living room?"

Mr. McMichael began the project more than three years ago, but technical problems in building the back of the sound board slowed his progress. So far, he has spent more than 2,000 hours building the instrument. He is still reworking and refining a few things and plans to hand-carve vine and leaf patterns and cover them with gold leaf.

"You have to go slowly with a new harp. After it ages, it sounds better," Mr. McMichael said. "Harps go out of tune and break strings like crazy. Humidity, air conditioning and heat change the pitch."

His harp, constructed of Douglas fir inlaid with teak, is 56 inches tall and weighs more than 40 pounds. Mr. McMichael spent about \$1,200 in construction for the

instrument valued at up to \$6,000.

He purchased plans, strings, sharpening levers and tuning pins.

"The plans only offer a general size, not an exact fit," he said. "When all parts are assembled, it takes hours of tweaking to make everything fit properly."

The column that connects the top and bottom of the harp has to withstand more than 1,000 pounds of pressure. Mr. McMichael said the large stocks of wood he needed were nearly impossible to find, so each piece was built by gluing smaller pieces together. The huge block was turned on a lathe in two pieces and sanded to match the two halves.

The neck, the distinctive curved part of the harp, had to be carved with a hammer and chisels.

"Unfortunately, when the harp was completed, during stringing up and tightening, the smaller end of the neck snapped from the pressure," Mr. McMichael said. "I'm glad my hands weren't in the way -- it would've been like being hit with a softball bat."

He ended up carving a trench in the top and bottom of the neck and embedding a steel bar.

The sound box acts like a megaphone and amplifies the vibrations of the strings and soundboard.

"If the sound (box), which amplifies the vibrations of the strings, is too thick, the harp's volume is too weak," he said. "If it's too thin, the strings have a tinny sound."

He had to drill precise holes for the tuning pins and bridge pins before he was ready to string the instrument.

The harp has 36 strings. The lower notes have thicker, longer strings than the high-pitch strings. Red and black strings provide reference points for the player.

"On my next harp, I'll build my own strings," Mr. McMichael said. "Custom strings can cost up to \$17 each from a manufacturer."

His next project? A 75-inch full-size orchestra harp with pedals.



Ms. Susan Griggs / 81st TW PA

**Mr. McMichael tunes his hand-crafted harp.**

# PRICE IS RIGHT

## Hours of waiting in line pays off for Nellis Airman

By Ms. Julie Ray

Air Warfare Center Public Affairs

**NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev.** — Watching the “Price is Right” game show faithfully for years, an Airman here was invited to “Come on Down,” for his chance to bid in contestants row.

“It has been my dream to be on a game show,” said Senior Airman Roger Thomas, an information manager with Air Combat Command Training Support Squadron’s Detachment 8 here. “I went because I’ve watched the show for years, and I thought maybe I would have a chance to win something.”

Airman Thomas signed up for the show through the information ticket and travel office. Dressed in his service-dress uniform, he headed to California for the dream of a lifetime.

For what he said seemed like hours, Airman Thomas stood in line with other

eager potential contestants trying to attract the show’s producer for a chance to bid on prizes. Airman Thomas said he thinks his enthusiasm and his uniform got him noticed by the producer while he waited in line.

“We waited in line four hours,” Airman Thomas said. “It was crazy, but well worth the wait. The producer asked me if I like my job and I said, ‘Yes, Sir, I love what I do. I love being part of the military; it makes me proud.’ I also told the producer that I watch the show faithfully every day. I set my timer, and I do not miss one episode. The producer’s response was, ‘Impressive.’”

Halfway through the show, host Bob Barker asked the announcer who the next contestant was, and the announcer said, “That would be Roger Thomas.”

“I looked around and thought to myself, ‘Who is Roger Thomas? Oh, that’s me!’” Airman Thomas said. “I couldn’t believe they called my name. It was a dream.”

Two incorrect bids kept Airman Thomas on contestants’ row. But after the third bid on a dishwasher, Mr. Barker told him he won.

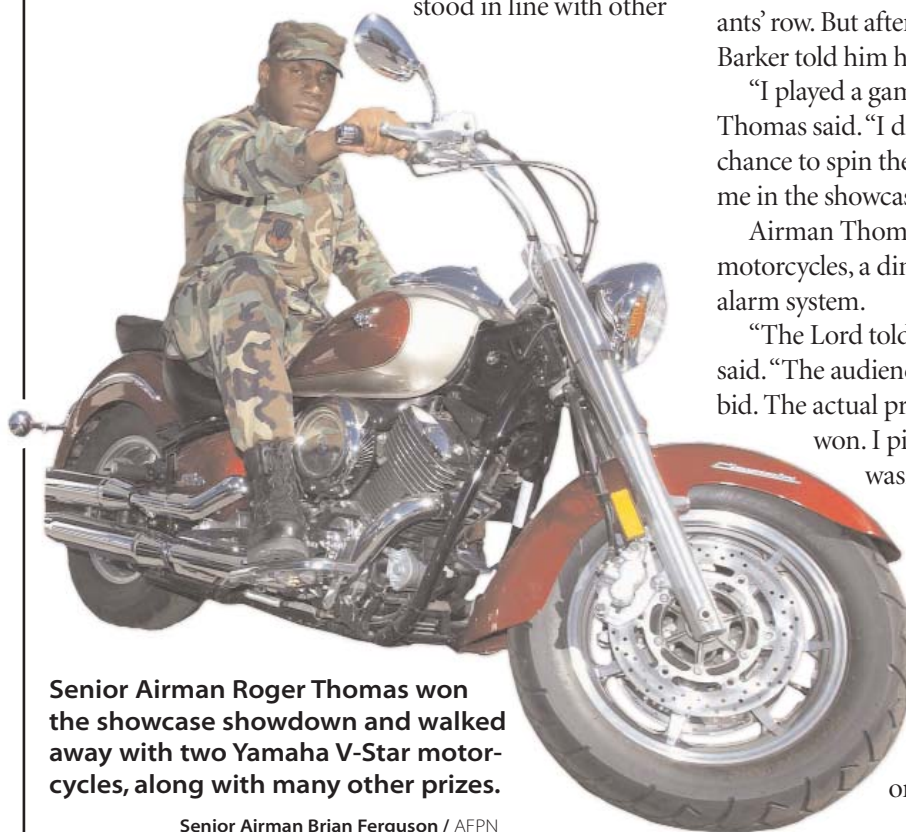
“I played a game called, ‘That’s too much,’” Airman Thomas said. “I didn’t do well on the game, but I did get a chance to spin the wheel, and it landed on the \$1. That put me in the showcase showdown.”

Airman Thomas’ showcase prize consisted of two motorcycles, a dinette set, platinum china and a home-alarm system.

“The Lord told me to bid \$19,500,” Airman Thomas said. “The audience roared because they thought I underbid. The actual price of my showcase was \$20,000, and I won. I pinched myself five times to make sure I wasn’t dreaming.”

Airman Thomas offered some advice for anyone wishing to participate on the show.

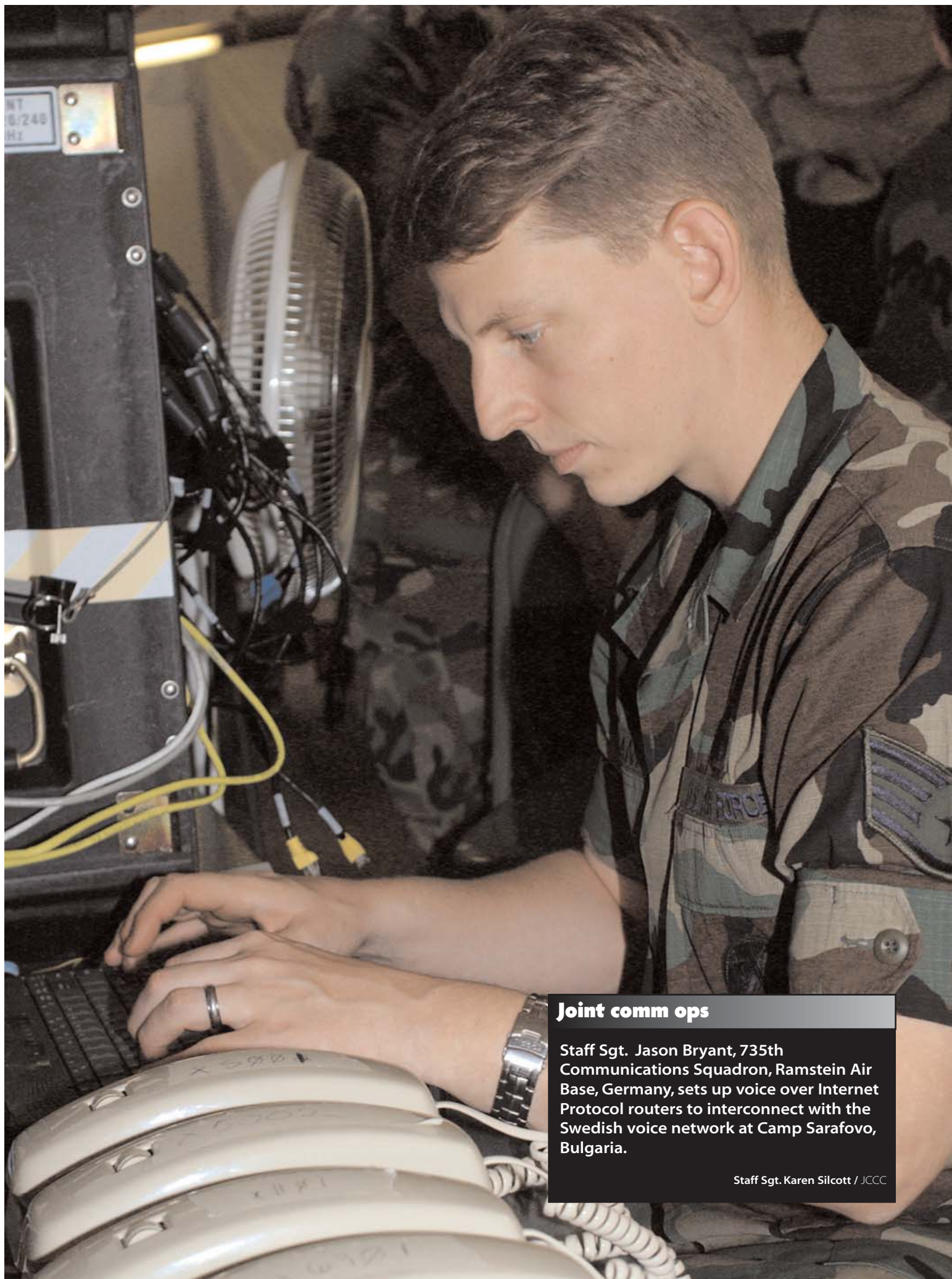
“If you want to be on the show, keep your hopes up. Know that miracles do happen,” he said. “You might think they won’t call your name, but trust me, if it can happen to me, it can happen to anyone.”



**Senior Airman Roger Thomas won the showcase showdown and walked away with two Yamaha V-Star motorcycles, along with many other prizes.**

Senior Airman Brian Ferguson / AFPN





### **Joint comm ops**

Staff Sgt. Jason Bryant, 735th Communications Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, sets up voice over Internet Protocol routers to interconnect with the Swedish voice network at Camp Sarafovo, Bulgaria.

Staff Sgt. Karen Silcott / JCCC



# Fiesta Información

## where industry meets military

By 2nd Lt. David Vega Jr.

93rd IS/SCX

**LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas** — The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association held its annual Fiesta Información Conference, “Transformation: A Journey, Not a Destination” at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. In attendance were senior government, military and leading intelligence and technology industry leaders.

AFCEA International represents the professional communications, electronics, intelligence and information systems community. It is open to all services and provides an ethical forum in which government and industry leaders and decision-makers meet to exchange ideas and concepts through conferences, symposia, professional development opportunities, their own SIGNAL Magazine and more.

Founded in 1946, AFCEA represents more than 30,000 members, 1,000 corporate sponsors and 140 chapters worldwide.

This conference provided civilian and government experts in different informa-

tion technology fields an opportunity to present emerging technologies and exchange ideas while obtaining feedback on how to provide better products to assist the government in meeting the technological challenges of today, tomorrow and beyond necessary in executing its ever-changing and expanding missions.

Aside from educational information provided at the event, the conference coincided with the world-renowned Fiesta celebrations. It is through these festivities highlighting San Antonio pride, life, culture and the Armed Forces through a series of civilian and military river floats and parades among their many celebrations.

One of the keynote speakers, General John P. Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff, spoke about the need for integration among products purchased off the shelf stating, “I went to a Combined Air Operations Center — the Staff Sgt. briefing me had three screens in front of him and had to type the same information into each computer because the systems didn't talk to each other — we need to be able to pull this information together for ease of use on one system... it is this type

of challenge we must overcome to stay ahead in this changing world.” He also talked about how improvements are needed in antiquated acquisition processes stating, “Certain countries can purchase newer, more modern F-16s than what we use and can take delivery in 18 months while our using current systems would take 10 years. We need to change this and meet current and future needs quickly versus years down the line.”

The Director of the National Security Agency echoed General Jumper's comments.

“We need to bring the customer as close to the raw intelligence product as possible, said Lt. Gen. Michael Hayden who is also the chief of the Central Security Service. “A pilot needs to know there is a SAM site ahead of him in real-time versus a complete Intel product detailing who manned the site, its comms and what its capabilities were two days ago.”

Other senior information technology leaders hosted panels and discussions on topics such as security, collaboration, integration and cyber-threat initiatives.

Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff, takes time during the conference for a picture with from left, Staff Sgt. Kelly Bales, 2nd Lt. Larry Fiala, Capt. Vince Lau, 2nd Lt. Dave Vega, 2nd Lt. Teresa Sorger and 1st Lt. Brian Duckworth from the 93rd Intelligence Squadron at Lackland AFB, Texas. The general was the keynote speaker for the event, which was hosted by the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association.

Courtesy photo





# END OF AN ERA

## Mission complete in Germany

By 1st Lt. Gerardo Gonzalez

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany** — Weather may be a topic of conversation for many but for some Spangdahlem Air Base communicators it has been their mission for over a decade, until now.

The Global Weather Intercept Program mission of the 52nd Communications Squadron Operating Location-C at Pruem Air Station came to an end prompting the closure of this historic site.

“It’s the end of an era,” said Tech. Sergeant Joseph Rogers, 52nd Communications Squadron OL-C chief. “Life’s been good ... not many technical sergeants in the Air Force can say they have their own base.”

Pruem AB was originally activated in the early 50’s and hosted a number of different units and roles until 1991 when it inherited the GWIP mission following the closure of a site in Turkey, said Sergeant Rogers. Up until 2000, the unit was a geographically separated unit from Sembach AB before being placed under the 52nd Fighter Wing.

The mission of the GWIP is to intercept foreign broadcasted weather data unavailable from other sources, according to Sergeant Rogers. The data is intercepted using high frequency radio receivers and relayed to the Air Force Weather Agency for use in observation predictions, and ultimately to support military operations worldwide.

“The German Military Geophysical Office does the same thing for the Federal Republic of Germany,” said the sergeant about one of the reasons for bringing Pruem GWIP operations to an end. “AFWA has an agreement with them to provide the data that we were providing them.”

At the height of Sergeant Rogers’ tour at Pruem, the site had about 35 military members assigned in addition to contractors and other civilian employees.

“There was a BX, shoppette and a movie theater,” he said. “Anything that Spangdahlem has, we had here.”

Most of the buildings at Pruem AS now sit empty. Eventually they will be demolished or returned to the Germans, said Sergeant Rogers. The only item that will remain is the contractor supported antenna tower that holds a variety of microwave relay dishes used for other missions.

“I’m glad to have been here and sad to see it go,” said Sergeant Rogers. “But it’s time to move on.”

The Air Force still operates three other GWIP sites in Japan and on two islands in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.



1st Lt. Gerardo Gonzalez / 52nd FW PA

Front, Staff Sgt. Joshua Brown, 52nd Communications Squadron Operating Location-C, Global Weather Intercept Program operator, and Tech. Sgt. Joseph Rogers, 52nd CS OL-C chief, pull out a high frequency radio receiver from a rack at Pruem Air Station. The GWIP mission at Pruem AS ended and the installation is slated to close this summer.

“Life’s been good ... not many technical sergeants in the Air Force can say they have their own base.”



### **Survive & Operate**

Staff Sgt. Jason Arnold, 100th Communications Squadron, refers to his ability to operate and survive handbook regarding unexploded ordnance reporting procedures during a simulated chemical attack on RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom. The purpose of the exercise is to ensure base personnel are able to perform their primary duties while under extreme threat conditions.

Staff Sgt. Jeanette Copeland / 100th CS



# Master Sgt. Joseph Duffy

By Mr. Gerald Sonnenberg

AFCA Public Affairs

Retired Air Force Master Sgt. Joseph Duffy is a Cold War veteran, who served his country well during and after that war of wills ended, and he continues to serve his community today.

The son of Irish parents, Sergeant Duffy was born in Philadelphia in 1935 and enlisted in the Air Force at age 20. From that point on he would lead what many could call an interesting and unique career in communications operations.

From his first assignment at Hurlburt Field, Fla., Sergeant Duffy gained a reputation for dependability and professionalism. He established that reputation during his first 11 years in service at Hurlburt and follow-on assignments to Taiwan, New Jersey, Maryland, Germany and Oklahoma. Two assignments to Vietnam, in particular, would help shape his career.

The first was to Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam, in the 1876th Communications Squadron. There, Sergeant Duffy managed the base's Communications Security account. It was the largest COMSEC account in the world at the time having tens of thousands of line items. A few years later at Pleiku, Vietnam, he volunteered his COMSEC expertise and managed the total deactivation of his squadron as U.S. forces moved south. He kept communications assets out of enemy hands by transferring, shipping and destroying all of them in the Pleiku region in the northern area of the former South Vietnam. For his performance, he was awarded the Bronze Star and a follow-on assignment as an operating location commander. He was the first technical sergeant to be assigned as an OL commander within the



Then Tech. Sgt. Duffy circa 1967 at Westover AFB, Mass.

European communications area.

At Westover AFB, Mass., Sergeant Duffy worked for retired Chief Master Sgt. Hank Sauer.

"He was one of my shift chiefs in the base communications center," said Chief Sauer, who is also a member of the Communications and Information Hall of Fame. "This was a very large comm center with approximately 25 people per shift, supporting HQ 8th Air Force, the 99th Strategic Air Command Bomb Wing, the Air Force Communications Service Eastern Comm Region and other secure sites. When you give Joe a job, get out of the way and let him do it."

Sergeant Duffy retired from active duty in 1975 and became a civil service employee with the Department of the Air Force, U.S. Space Command, Falcon Air Station, Colo., as a Satellite Resources/Satellite Scheduler.

He continued to show his ability to be innovative and provide sound management decisions in his new environment. He received more assignments to high level security positions in Moscow, Beijing and Berlin. At the American Consulate in Sydney, Australia, he was appointed to the U.S.

State Department.

In Australia, Sergeant Duffy worked with the Foreign Service Administrative Counselor, American Embassy, by acting as the primary communications support officer for visits from the U.S. secretary of state, secretary of defense, and the vice president. These additional duties were carried out while Sergeant Duffy was responsible for other critical projects. He was awarded a meritorious honor award, a superior honor award, two meritorious step increases, and a promotion all during his three-year tour in Sydney. Sergeant Duffy was also the first state department communicator to be awarded two individual honor awards during a single overseas assignment.

In the mid 1990s, Sergeant Duffy retired with more than 40 years of government service.

Today he lives in Colorado Springs, Colo., and continues to contribute to his community by doing volunteer work at a local hospital.

"All the troops who worked under him, liked and respected him, because he cared about them and went to the wall for them when necessary," added Chief Sauer. He never asked anyone to do something that he couldn't himself, and he took pride in training our young Airmen."



Sergeant Duffy, right, celebrates with Mr. Dick Frye following Duffy's induction into the AACSH Hall of Honor Class of 2002 in Dayton, Ohio.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

**GETTING PINNED:** Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials recently announced that Airmen can receive personal identification numbers for myPay through their official Air Force e-mail accounts.

Airmen can expect to receive a new or updated PIN within two hours of requesting it on the myPay Web site.

The e-mail PIN delivery process is a simpler, faster alternative to the direct mail and in-person request methods previously available, DFAS officials said. This capability is especially timely as more people are realizing the benefits of accessing myPay from remote and deployed sites.

Customers can view, print and save leave and earnings statements, make adjustments to federal and state tax withholdings, update bank account and electronic transfers and change address information, all online at: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

The Web site is available to all servicemembers, military retirees and annuitants, and Departments of Defense and Energy civilian employees. (*Air Force Print News*)

**COMMAND STRUCTURE:** Two new military commands stood up in Iraq May 15, replacing the current coalition military organization. Multinational Corps Iraq and Multinational Force Iraq will replace Combined Joint Task Force 7.

Coalition military spokesman Army Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, at a Baghdad news conference, said the change addresses a concern that a combined joint task force headquarters was not sufficient to handle the military workload in Iraq efficiently. "It's certainly more than a formality," he said. "It is trying to get the proper command structure for the days, weeks and months ahead."

General Kimmitt explained that Multinational Corps Iraq will focus on the tactical fight — the day-to-day military operations and the maneuvering of the six multinational divisions on

leadership opportunities on course with



**SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILL.** — After a short delay, to ensure all requirements for incorporation into the Comm & Info Career Program were fully met, SCOPE Champion is wheels up on its journey to enhance leadership opportunity.

SCOPE Champion targets the comm and info GS-13 through GS-15 populace for assignment to select positions in order to foster professional growth, breadth of experience and increased leadership. Applicants who submitted packages during the initial 2003 cycle for SCOPE Champion are now under consideration to fill vacant SCOPE Champion positions and will soon receive a feedback sheet providing their score from the Executive Core Qualifications element of the process.

Even during its formalization under the CICP, SCOPE Champion has not been dormant. Five SCOPE Champion positions have been filled since fall 2003 using tenets of the SCOPE Champion program.

The 2004 SCOPE Champion cycle will taxi and launch smoothly using momentum and lessons learned from the initial cycle. The next ECQ screening board will be conducted in September, and there will be an official call for ECQ packages from applicants 90 days prior. CICP management will ensure the word is broadcast through all available media, so stay tuned.

SCOPE Champion will help maximize operational capabilities by grooming the civilian comm and info workforce to lead in today's network centric environment. Success in this environment requires a total force construct aggressively teaming active and reserve military, and civilians. SCOPE Champion serves to integrate civilian leaders into this corporate approach through professional development and career assignment opportunities.

SCOPE Champion is cleared for take off, if you're eligible be sure to reserve a seat for the next cycle because the destination is where our leaders need to be! (*Submitted by AFCA/ Civilian Career Force Executive Agent*)

## CONGRATS

These trail blazers represent those whose pursuit of education, professional development and supervisory and management experience across Department of Defense has resulted in assignment to a SCOPE Champion position:

**Mr. Jay Aragon**

GS-301-14  
AFPDC/DPKCI

**Ms. Judy Beussink**

GS-301-14  
AMC/SCTE

**Mr. Lanny Cawthon**

GS-343-15  
AF/XIIV

**Mr. Mark Fink**

GS-301-14  
PACAF/SCT

**Ms. Jessica Spencer-Gallucci**

GS-301-15  
AFDPO/PP



the ground. Army Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Metz will command the corps. Meanwhile, Multinational Force Iraq will focus on more strategic aspects of the military presence in Iraq, such as talking with sheiks and political leaders, and on training, equipping and fielding Iraqi security forces, General Kimmitt said.

Multinational Force Iraq "will certainly be involved in the tactical operations, but only to the extent that they have somewhat of an operational and strategic impact on this country," Kimmitt said.

Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, current CJTF 7 commander who will head the force, already has been working the strategic issues, and the new command structure will enable him to focus more of his time and energy in that direction, Kimmitt said. (*American Forces Press Service*)

**EXCHANGE PROGRAM :** Mr. Rob Thomas II, Air Force Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Warfighting Integration, and Mrs. Debra Filippi, Marine Corps Deputy Director, Command, Control, Communications, Computers, announced the creation of an exchange program for civilian employees in information technology and communications management occupational fields.

The **Information Technology and Communications Management Civilian Exchange Program** is a landmark opportunity for civilian employees in both the Air Force and Marine Corps. Employees have opportunities to participate directly in Air Force and Marine Corps operations. Employees will gain cross-service experience that proves extremely valuable as all of the armed services move together toward a more joint operating environment.

The Air Force and Marine Corps are excited about this new opportunity for civilian employees and are eager to hear from interested candidates. Marine Corps civilian employees interested in applying for the program should contact Mr. Brian Chapin at DSN 223-3545 or commercially at (703) 693-3545; Air Force civilian employees interested in applying for the program should contact Ms. Yvette

Landers at DSN 665-3691 or via e-mail at: [yvette.landerson@randolph.af.mil](mailto:yvette.landerson@randolph.af.mil). (AFCA/CCFEA)



Mr. Rob Thomas II, Air Force Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Warfighting Integration, and Mrs. Debra Filippi, Marine Corps Deputy Director, Command, Control, Communications, Computers, sign the proclamation for the Communications Management Civilian Exchange Program.

## KUDOS

**IT'S A WINNER:** The Air Force's communications and information magazine, *intercom*, produced by the Air Force Communications Agency, received one of the top awards at the National Association of Government Communicators 2003 Blue Pencil/Gold Screen Awards May 20. The awards

were presented to the government's best print and broadcasting publications and products during NAGC's Communications School 2004 in Washington, D.C.

In the Internal Magazine category, the *intercom* received an Award of Excellence, tying *Airman* magazine, Air Education and Training Command's *Torch* magazine, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Coastal Services Center's *Coastal Services* magazine. Placing first for 2003 was the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's *ASK* magazine, and tying for second place was the U.S. Army's *Soldiers* magazine and the Navy's *All Hands* magazine. There were 540 entries in the competition.

Tech. Sgt. Jim Verchio, *intercom* editor, was present to accept the award.

"With a staff of two people (Verchio and managing editor Master Sgt. Karen Pettitt), it's exciting to know we are able to compete with some outstanding flagship publications," he said. "Thanks go to all of the individuals and organizations that have submitted their outstanding stories and

photos to the *intercom*."

The NAGC is a national not-for-profit professional network of federal, state and local government employees who disseminate information within and outside government. Its members are editors, writers, graphic artists, video professionals, broadcasters, photographers, information specialists and agency spokespersons. (Mr. Gerald Sonnenberg / AFCA Public Affairs)

**ANNUAL AWARDS:** People who excelled in providing vital communications and information support to Air Force missions and operations earned special recognition. Lt. Gen. Tom Hobbins, Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Warfighting Integration, announced the winners of the Air Force's annual Communications and Information Awards for 2003.

Air Force Communications and Information Individual Award Winners:

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Field Grade Officer: **Maj. Kimberly C. Ullmann**, Headquarters U.S. Air Force,



Tech. Sgt. Demetrius Lester/ 379th ECS

## SHE'S GOT THE POWER

Senior Airman Crystal Plummer installs a power supply into a computer at a forward-deployed location. Airman Plummer is the computer workgroup manager for the 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. She is deployed from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Company Grade Officer: **Capt. Robert J. Bonner**, 333rd Training Squadron, Keesler AFB, Miss.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Communications-Electronic Systems Senior Noncommissioned Officer: **Senior Master Sgt. Richard M. Novobilsky**, Air Force Reserve Command, Robins AFB, Ga.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Communications-Electronic Systems Noncommissioned Officer: **Tech. Sgt. Terry T. Pardue**, Air Force Pentagon Communications Agency, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding

Communications-Electronic Systems Airman: **Senior Airman Victor C. Grine**, 1st Communications Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Information Management Senior Noncommissioned Officer: **Senior Master Sgt. Kevin L. Call**, 9th CS, Beale AFB, Calif.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Information Management Noncommissioned Officer: **Tech. Sgt. Lisa S. Collins**, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill.

► Air Force Communications and Information

Outstanding Information Management Airman: **Senior Airman Elijah E. Lewis III**, Air Force

Communications Agency, Scott AFB, Ill.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Communications-Computer Systems Senior Noncommissioned Officer: **Master Sgt. Bobby E. Rogers, Jr.**, Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe Computer Systems Squadron, Ramstein AB, Germany.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Communications-Computer Systems Noncommissioned Officer: **Staff Sgt. Kevin M. Paige**, 60th CS, Travis AFB, Calif.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Communications-Computer Systems Airman: **Senior Airman Anthony E. Persi**, 729th Air Control Squadron, Hill AFB, Utah.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Visual Information Senior Noncommissioned Officer: **Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey B.**

**Chisholm**, 805th CSS, Scott AFB, Ill.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Visual Information Noncommissioned Officer: **Staff Sgt. John L. Tucker**, 37th CS, Lackland AFB, Texas.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Visual Information Airman: **Senior Airman Manuel J. Martinez**, 347th CS, Moody AFB, Ga.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Postal Service Senior Noncommissioned Officer: **Senior Master Sgt. Salvador A. Orozpe**, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Randolph AFB, Texas.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Postal Service Noncommissioned Officer: **Tech. Sgt. George T. Flaig**, USAFE Air Postal Squadron, Ramstein AB, Germany.

► Air Force Communications



Airman 1st Class Desiree Palacios / 407th AEG

## STEADY

Members of the 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, Tallil Air Base, Iraq, put together a Flyaway KU Band Earth Terminal Satellite System. The FKET Satellite System was moved on to a cement pad for a more stable means of securing the satellite dish with anchor bolts to the concrete pad which reduces its sensitivity to Iraq's extreme winds.



and Information Outstanding Postal Service Airman: **Airman 1st Class Jamie L. Sementilli**, 31st CS, Aviano AB, Italy.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Civilian Manager: **Mr. Douglas W. Gray**, AFCA, Scott AFB, Ill.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Civilian Specialist: **Mr. Jene Wilton**, 7th CS, Dyess AFB, Texas.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Civilian Assistant Specialist: **Ms. Colleen E. Maldonado**, 52nd CS, Spangdahlem AB, Germany.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Civilian Technician: **Ms. Nancy M. Merfeld**, 7th Special Operations Squadron, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Civilian Assistant: **Mr. Kelly L. Campbell**, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Neb.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Electromagnetic Spectrum Manager: **Tech. Sgt. Sean F. Brice, Sr.**, Combined Joint Task Force-7, Baghdad.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Installation Spectrum Manager: **Master Sgt. Fred A. Vencill**, 509th CS, Whiteman AFB, Mo.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Information Assurance Professional: **Senior Airman Andre A. Stevens**, 55th CS, Offutt AFB, Neb. He is now a nominee for the National Security Agency's Information Assurance Frank B. Rowlett award.

Air Force Communications and Information Team and Unit Award Winners:

► The Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Team-Gen. Edwin W. Rawlings Award: **Formal Training Unit Communications and Information Implementation Team**, AFC2TIG, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Large Unit-Maj. Gen. Harold M. McClelland Award: **5th Combat**



Staff Sgt. Karen Silcott / 52nd CS

## JOINT ENVIRONMENT

Staff Sgt. Dorothy Galvan and Italian Army Warrant Officer Gianluca De Giovanni, evaluators for Joint Interoperability Test Center, ensure that Romanian Sgt. Maj. John Tudor, South Eastern European Brigade, has annotated the data collection form before starting an analog to digital phone test at Camp Sarafovo, Bulgaria, during Combined Endeavor 2004. The exercise is designed to identify and document command, control, communications, and computer interoperability between NATO and partnership for peace nations.

Communications Group, Robins AFB, Ga.

► Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Small Unit-Lt. Gen. Harold W. Grant Award: **379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron**, Al Udeid AB, Qatar.

► The Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Information Assurance Unit: **Pacific Air Forces Computer Systems Squadron**, Hickam AFB, Hawaii. The unit will go on to compete at the national level for the Information Assurance Frank B. Rowlett organizational award.

► The Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Large Postal Operations Unit: **Yokota Air Force Post Office**, 374th CS, Yokota AB, Japan.

► The Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Small Postal Operations Unit: **Operating Location C**,

**Detachment 2, Pacific Air Forces Air Postal Squadron**, Bangkok, Thailand.

► The Air Force Communications and Information Outstanding Aerial Mail Terminal: **Detachment 2, PACAF Air Postal Squadron**, Yokota AB, Japan.

► Air Force Communications and Information Darryl G. Winters Award: **Master Sgt. Abdon M. Padilla II**, 37th CS, Lackland AFB, Texas.

► Air Force Association Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell Award for Communications and Information Excellence: **Maj. Kimberly Ullmann**, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. AFA sponsors this award and an independent panel selected Major Ullmann from among the 24 Air Force Communications and Information individual award winners.

(Mr. Gerald Sonnenberg / AFCA Public Affairs)

**TRAINING REQUIRED** : There is a

new requirement for annual Information Assurance Awareness training as outlined by AFI 33-204. This requirement is accomplished through the new Air Force Information Assurance Awareness Computer Based Training that replaced the Network Users Licensing CBT on the Air Force CBT Web site smartforce.com. This annual and refresher training is for all users who access an Air Force network. Users must logon to the SmartForce web site and take the CBT if they have not taken the Network Users Licensing CBT in fiscal 04. If users are establishing a network account, their workgroup managers need to assist them in getting registered on the SmartForce web site and take the new CBT. Once users complete the course successfully, they should go to My Progress to print their certificate. Should you have questions, contact the local Information Assurance office.

# UNMANNED

## What are unmanned ground vehicles

The Demo III robot is the Army Research Lab's newest experimental unmanned vehicle. The XUVs are a test bed for autonomous mobility research and experimentation directly relevant to military transformation efforts. The goal is for the vehicle to serve as a scout and conduct route reconnaissance. As the Demo III rolls through the terrain, it gathers data on its surroundings.

## How does it work?

The soldier plans a mission for the robot through the operator control unit. If the vehicle runs into trouble, it can send a message back that it needs help. The soldier can then turn on the cameras (mounted on the vehicle), take a look around, execute a plan, and the robot will resume its mission.

## What is the benefit?

Many missions are extremely dangerous. Sending Unmanned Ground Vehicles into dangerous areas reduces the threat to the individual soldier, which is extremely beneficial.

## What does the future hold?

Since 1998, the lab's robotics program has been developing advanced technology for early insertion into the current and future force. Live experiments with the unmanned vehicles are part of the robotics program. These tests are giving soldiers hands-on experience with the technology of autonomous mobility while providing researchers with invaluable feedback about human factor issues and user needs, as well as ideas for advancing the technology.

Techno  
Gizmo



Army Master Sgt. Frank French, Army Research Lab, uses the operator control unit to program a route for an experimental unmanned vehicle from inside the Humvee.



# INDEPENDENCE

A composite image featuring the Statue of Liberty on the left, holding a tablet that reads 'JULY 4 1776 MDCCLXXVI'. The background is a dark night sky filled with a large, vibrant firework explosion on the right side, with streaks of light radiating outwards.

THOSE WHO WOULD  
GIVE UP ESSENTIAL LIBERTY,  
TO PURCHASE A LITTLE  
TEMPORARY SAFETY, DESERVE  
NEITHER LIBERTY NOR SAFETY.

— BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



"Diplomacy has rarely been able  
to gain at the conference table  
what cannot be gained on  
the battlefield."

- General Walter Bedell Smith

